

SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

8149 Golf Road, Niles, IL 60714 • 847.967.1060 • Fax: 847.967.1070 • Website: <http://sij-parish.com>

Mission: "A Catholic Parish sharing experiences of the Kingdom of God"

PASTOR: Rev. Mario Pereira, S.F.X.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Carlos Pereira, S.F.X.

Pastoral Staff:

Deacon Paul M. Stanton (Dolores)
Lori Ronczka, Business Manager
Dolores Stanton, Director of Religious Education
Lisa Hall, Director of Music

Weekend Mass Celebrant:

Rev. Bernard Kennedy, O.F.M.

**Masses: Saturday, 5PM
Sunday, 8AM & 10AM**

Parish Office: 8149 Golf Road, Niles, IL. 60714

Phone: 847-967-1060

Website: <http://sij-parish.com>

E-mail: office@sij-parish.com

Marlene Garber (A/R, Calendar Coordinator)

Parish Office Hours: Closed until further notice per Archdiocesan mandate

Religious Education: 847-966-1180

Email: sijre2004@yahoo.com

Parish School: St. John Brebeuf School
847-966-3266 or sjbschool.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 11AM - 12:30PM, BY RESERVATION

Sacrament of Matrimony: Must be registered for six months prior to setting the wedding date with an additional six months for necessary preparation.

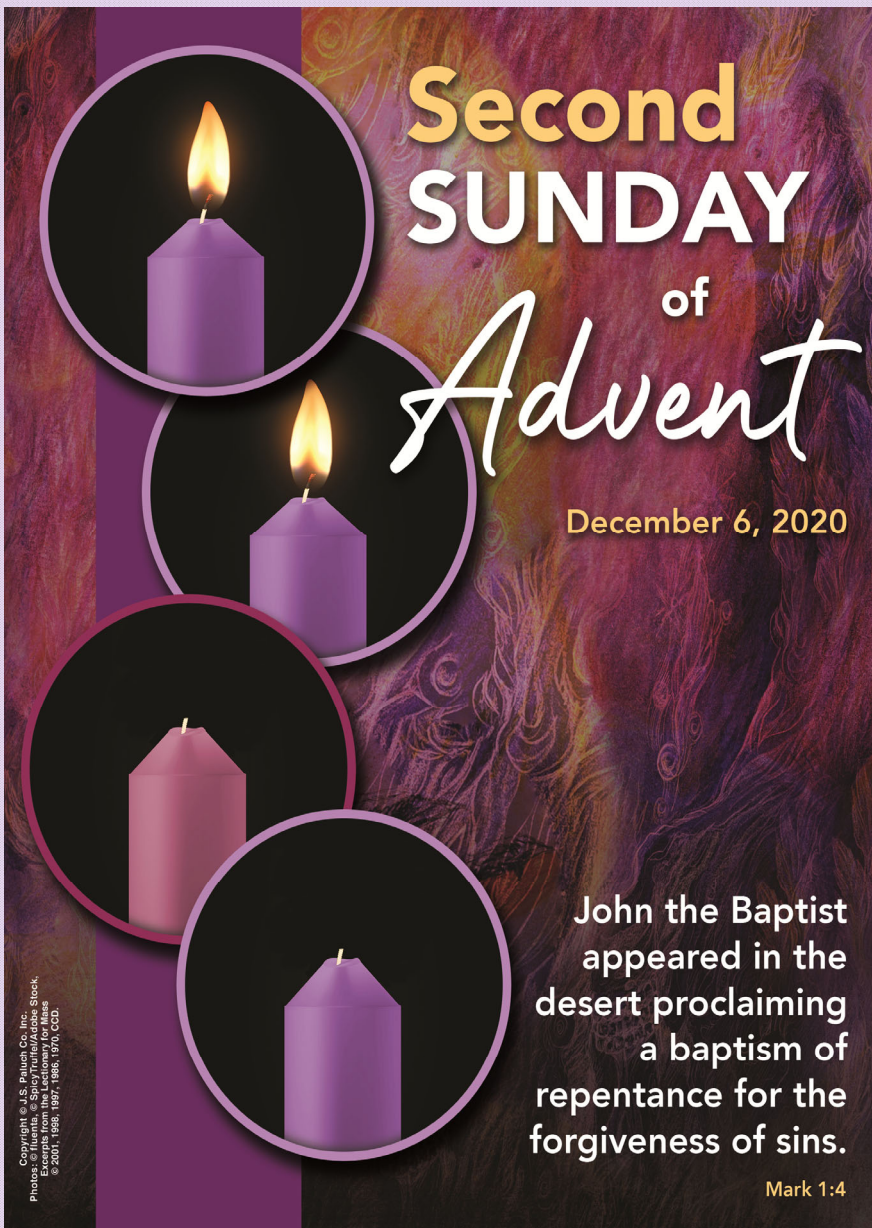
Note: The following wedding times can be scheduled:

Friday at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Sunday at 3:00 p.m. (Ceremony only)

Sacrament of Baptism: Second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM. Baptism Preparation Session must be completed before Baptism. Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible for details.



ST ISAAC JOGUES - Parish Leaders

Parish Pastoral Council			Finance Committee Advisors	
Ted Lenart, Chairperson	Kathy Denning	Gerry Zeller	Kathy Denning	Barbara Watson
Kathy Lord, Vice Chairperson	Lori Ronczka	Dolores Stanton	Gerry Zeller	Irene Baron
Debbie Dexter	Fernando Bonto	Maria Swidzinski	Lori Ronczka	
John Kadiri	Irene Baron			
Women's Club Chairperson – Louella Preston				
Men's Club Chairperson – Chuck Napravnik				
Fil-Am Chairperson – Jelly Carandang (Interim)				



FROM THE
Pastor's Desk

Prepare the way of the Lord

Preparation plays an important role in our life, be it to get through an examination, an interview, a driving test or a medical examination. We do take utmost care in doing such a preparation so that we fare well. If in such matters we prepare well; similarly the church reminds us of the importance of preparing ourselves to welcome the lord into our lives.

We need to prepare a way for the Lord and make his path straight so that there will not be any obstacles in his way. Awaiting with expectation and preparing to receive the Lord are two important aspects of the Advent season. We must prepare a straight path for the Lord, removing all obstacles which stand in the Lord's way preventing him from coming. All the crooked ways in our life and in the life of our society need to be straightened out. Every mountain and hill should be brought low and every valley be lifted up.

Israel was a nation in waiting, waiting for the coming of the Messiah. God had chosen Israel to be his people. He had promised that he would be their God and they his people. But their experience as a nation was contrary to all the promises of God. The history of the Jewish nation was a history of suffering. They were conquered, plundered and their Temple destroyed by other nations. Finally, they ended up in exile. None of God's promises were fulfilled. Psalm eighty-five is a cry of a defeated and suffering nation.

At the time of Jesus, the expectation of the Messiah was at its highest. Everyone in Israel was waiting eagerly for the Messiah. The different sects in Israel - the Pharisees, the Zealots, the Essenes - were all waiting for the Messiah. When baby Jesus was taken to the Temple, there was Simon, who was waiting for the consolation of Israel. There was Anna, the prophetess, who was of a great age. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. She gave thanks to God for Jesus and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Jordan, the whole of Judea and Jerusalem went after him, thinking he would be the Messiah. The people of Israel was a community in waiting, waiting with great expectation for the coming of the Messiah.

We celebrate Christmas year after year, but nothing happens to us and to our community. This is so because, in the first place, we do not expect anything to happen to us or to our community. We do not believe that God is able to change us and we do not want to be changed. Secondly, we must be prepared to receive the Messiah when he comes. At the time of Jesus, there were several movements in Judaism preparing themselves for the arrival of the Messiah. By detailed observance of the Law, the Pharisees believed that they would be ready to receive the Messiah. By observance of Jewish rituals and the study of the Scriptures, the Essenes in the desert prepared themselves for the advent of the Messiah. The Zealots believed that by trying to drive out the Romans by force, they were preparing themselves and the nation for the arrival of the Messiah. All renewal movements in Judaism in the first century were movements of preparation.

Where are we in this movement of preparing for the Lord's coming? God does not look for the external preparation but rather our hearts need to be ready to welcome him when he comes. If we truly take it seriously then each passing day of the Advent season will be a day of preparation, preparing our hearts to wipe out evil desires, inclination and put on the garment of love. I wish you well in your journey as you prepare to welcome the Lord.

-Fr. Mario

OPLATKI

Packets of blessed oplatki, the traditional Christmas Wafer, are available as you leave Mass today or next weekend, while supplies last. You may also call the Rectory to set up a time to pick it up. Donations are appreciated.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS

In collaboration with Catholic Charities and the Greater Chicago Food Depository the next free food distribution will be hosted here in our SIJ parking lot on Wednesday, December 23, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Please pass the information along to those who could use the support at this time. This month we hope to test an indoor packing & outdoor distribution plan. The indoor packing will include moving the products into the Holy Family Room, packing and moving the bags outside, with social distancing, masks, windows open, etc. for well being. A few people will also be outside to set up signs and tables. The outdoor distribution plan will continue with directing traffic in the parking lot, checking in those who come, putting food in car trunks (three stations), and clean up.

We are in need of about 15 volunteers for each time frame. The first time frame is 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. for instructions and to carry out the tasks listed above. The second time frame is 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. to do the outdoor plan and some to continue packing inside if not finished by first team. We particularly encourage younger families, teens, and adults under 65 years of age to help. Everyone needs to be in good health, no underlying conditions, and will have to wear a mask and gloves (which we will provide). If you want to volunteer but are over 65 and have no underlying medical conditions, you may contact us to discuss your involvement.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

To give more people an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas we will



have six (6) reservation spots for confession in the Church and six (6) reservation spots for confession in the Holy Family Room for the following Saturdays: December 5, 12, and 19. A Reconciliation preparation guide will be sent out on Flocknote this coming week. You may also contact the parish office to make arrangements to pick up a copy or have one emailed to you. If your reservation is in Church, please be outside Door 13 (the one we use to enter for Mass) a couple minutes before your scheduled time. If your reservation is in the Holy Family Room, please be outside Door 12 (near the Holy Family Room) a couple minutes before your scheduled time. Masks are required in both places.

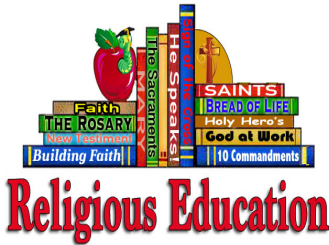
SHARE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Have any extra **Christmas cards**? Sign your family's name and our parish name to a Christmas card or two or more to send to local nursing homes. We cannot go there for our annual Giving Tree event because of COVID but we want the residents to know we are thinking about them. **All cards need to get to the RE Office by Noon on Tuesday, Dec. 15.** You can use postal mail, leave them in the envelope on the outside of door #9 by the RE Office, put them in the mail slot at the Rectory or bring them to church when you come for Mass or to the church/RE Office on the days and times listed below for the toy drive drop off. We will make sure they get to Niles Center and Glenbridge Nursing & Rehab Centers. Thanks for sharing some Christmas spirit!

ARE WE HAVING A TOY DRIVE THIS YEAR?

Yes, Virginia, there is a **Toy Drive** at SIJ this year sponsored by the Women's Club to benefit the **youth of Maryville**, so check out those sales! New, unwrapped toys, games, crafts, sports balls, books, dolls., etc. will be **accepted next Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Door #13 of the church; when you come to Masses next weekend, Dec. 12 - 13; and at the RE Office (door #9 of the school building) on Monday, Dec. 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m.** If you want to drop something off at another time prior to the 12th, please call the Rectory. If you would rather give a monetary donation, that is most welcome, too. Then we'll go out and buy more gifts. Your generous support to make a child or teen's Christmas special is most appreciated!





Religious Education

+Confirmation Year II Candidates are reminded that Part I of the Gifts of the Spirit Journal is due by Dec. 7th.
 +Remember to drop off toys/books/etc. for the children/teens of Maryville Saturday, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. by church door #13, when you come for Mass next weekend (12/12-13) or Monday (12/13) 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the RE Office.
 +Ms. Bello's class is to have the Gift of Reconciliation book completed for Dec. 14th. They will have a review of the sacrament w/Father that night. If you child will not be celebrating First Reconciliation on Dec. 19th, please contact the RE Office, 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com by Friday, Dec. 11.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Even if we are unable to physically receive Holy Communion at times we can enter into spiritual Communion with the Lord by praying:



"My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul. I am sorry for ever having offended You. Since I am unable now to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never, never permit me to be separated from You.
 Amen."

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be Tuesday, December 8th at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 Reservations necessary. Please note that there will not be an 8 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 9th.



CHRISTMAS EVE STORYTELLERS

We are in need of children (age 5 & older) to dress in costumes provided, wear masks and sit with their families (socially distanced in the Church) to help Deacon Paul tell the story of the birth of Christ at the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. There are no lines to remember - just dress up and do some gestures while standing in the place where you are sitting. Please sign your children up by this evening, Dec. 6th, 847/966-180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com, so we can make a Mass reservation for each family before we start taking reservations from the rest of the parish Monday morning. There will be a practice on Thursday, Dec. 17th at 6:30 p.m. in church. A parent/guardian must accompany the child for the whole time. We are seeking one family that would have a boy and a girl to be Joseph and Mary for the story. Those two need to be together for the story so they need to be from the same family. We also need angels, shepherds, Caesar, the Star of Bethlehem, and the innkeeper. Parents welcome to have a part as well!



Food Pantry

St. Isaac
 Jogues
 Outreach

With holidays and winter approaching help us stock up the food pantry. The following items would be helpful: canned vegetables (including potatoes), canned fruit or applesauce, oatmeal, rice, soups that are like meals, stews, chili, hash, canned tuna and chicken, pasta sauce, laundry detergent, and personal items (tooth brushes & paste, and bars of soap). You may bring your donations when you come for week day or weekend Masses or call the Rectory, 847/967-1060, M - F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to set up a time to drop them off.
 SIJOM SENDS THANKS & BLESSINGS!

PEACE  **NOEL**

**ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH
CHRISTMAS 2020**

LITURGIES OF CHRISTMAS

**CHRISTMAS EVE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**
4:00 pm & 10 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021**
8:00 am, 10:00 am
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Please plan ahead. Reservations are required. If your plans change, please adjust your reservations.

JOY

Christmas



CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

In an effort to give everyone a chance to sign up for Christmas Masses, reservations will be taken by **phone only on Monday, December 7th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 847/967-1060**. Links will be sent out on Flocknote Tuesday, Dec. 8th, and will be put up on the parish website on Wednesday, Dec. 9th.

Please note that the Christmas Octave (eight days) begins with Christmas and ends with the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This time frame is so important to our Salvation History and our life as the Church that it repeats the solemnness of Christmas each of the eight days. Therefore, **if you sign up for a Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, you are not to sign up for a Mass the weekend of December 26-27** so that those who are not able to sign up for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day will have the chance to celebrate Christmas within the Octave at a Mass that weekend.

For those who cannot come for Mass on **Christmas Day, Sunday Mass at Mercy Home will air a special Christmas Mass on that day at 8 a.m. on WGN Channel 9**. It will also be available on demand at www.MercyHome.org/Mass. However we are able to do it, let us pray for one another on this great feast of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.




Holiday Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry updates, & more delivered to your phone

**TEXT
SIJ
TO 84576**

OR SIGN UP ONLINE
SIJ2.FLOCKNOTE.COM

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at flocknote.com/txt

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Each week the Advent Wreath will be lit at the beginning of Mass. Families and individuals are invited to participate in the lighting. Simple instructions will be given to you ahead of time. The weekends are Dec. 5 – 6, 12 – 13, and 19 – 20 and the Masses are 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8 & 10 a.m. on Sundays. Please contact the RE Office this week to sign up, 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com., or call the Rectory, 847/967-1060, M – F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thank you!



Pray for

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| KERMIT TURNER | MARY JANE PIKULA |
| MICHAEL NOBLE | TONY LIVORSI |
| JULIE HIGGINS | JOHN ROMANO |
| CARL AFFATATI | AUDREY JANS |
| RICHARD VAIL | DAVID FORST |
| BETTY LANDON | CHRISTINA WALD |
| EMILY SITKOWSKI | KIMBERLY KNOX |
| CYNTHIA MELNICK | DIANE BAUER |
| MICHAEL FOLISI | NONA YOAKUM |
| DOROTHY BEZDON | KATHY EGLOFF |
| MATTHEW PONDER | ROBERT STEPHENSON |
| FELICITA BAYANI | LAURA HALL - SCHORDJE |
| EMILY CABRERA | HENRIETTA SAGARIO |
| JOE AUTH | MARY SUNSHINE PONDER |
| LORNA ALBA | JUDY CABRERA |
| SUSAN ARENDT | YUL VENTURA |
| CINDY NOLAN | MARY LERPS |
| FR. BERNARD KENNEDY | SHARON KILIKEVICE |
| MARTHA DEMKO | PELAGIA SAJULGA |
| ANNE MARRAZZO | JOHN OLDERSHAW |
| LAURA MORA | COLLEEN KING |
| TIM DENDOR | PATTY ZEMAN |
| | ROSE LUZ |
| | BOB AMEND |
| | STAN JEZIOR |

Thank you, Lord, for the courage and selfless service of our troops and first responders. May our loved ones and all who serve around the world turn to you for safety and protection. Help them to not be afraid and to trust that you hold them securely at all times. Amen.

First Responders - Shane Long, Brad Markovich, Greg Zalewski

United States Air Force - Joshua Aujero
Mason Janzen

United States Army - Brian Caplin, Gale Renner,
Jordan Irving, Violet Ennis

U.S. Army Reserves - Christopher Dexter

United States Marines - Patrick Edward Echavez
Joseph John Zimmerman III
Lance Renner
Gian Patrick Reyes
Kyle Franklin

United States Navy - David Perez,
Paul Matthew Ledesma

Illinois National Guard - Nathaniel Janzen

To add a name to the prayer list please contact the RE Office at 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com.



ADVENT – WEEK 2

Light the second candle of your Advent wreath or a single candle you may have.

Pray: “God, our loving Father, we thank you for sending St. John the Baptist to do the vital work of preparing people to hear the words of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to heed John’s message, to see where we need to repent in our lives and so produce good fruit. Give us an urgent desire to live out of our Baptism and to listen attentive to the Good News. Move us to follow the Baptist’s example, to lead people to your Son and then step out of the way, listening with them to his teaching. We ask these things ever confident of your work in our lives. We ask them in humility and gratitude. We ask them through Christ our Lord. Amen.” (LTP, c2007)

Reflect: What do I need to change in my thinking, values, actions to be better prepared for Christ’s coming? Who do I hear calling me to repentance (who is the John the Baptist in my life)?

Action: What is one thing I will do this week to lead my family, a friend, even a stranger, closer to Jesus?




*Robert Lump
Egídio Aranas*

In Memoriam

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 6, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of SIJ Ray & Tommy Dorsz
10:00 a.m.	Maryann Trauscht
12:00 p.m.	Mark Duval

Monday - December 7, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Purgatorial Society Pedro Tamondong
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Tuesday - December 8, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Stan Jezior - Spec Intention Helene Kowalik Luke & Philomena Moran Samantha Jozwiak
7:00 p.m.	Tony Schallmoser

Wednesday - December 9, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Helene Kowalik
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Thursday - December 10, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Edward Kalisz
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Friday - December 11, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Lucy Paet Smith
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Saturday - December 12, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Mary Dijitha
5:00 p.m.	Kurian Esthappan

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Margarita M. Viloría Arlene Forneck Joseph De Sario Helene Kowalik Marvin Hayes
10:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of SIJ Tony Irmen
12:00 p.m.	Philomena & Luke Moran

Liturgy Next Weekend December 12th & 13th

Confessions - 11:00 a.m.	Frs. Mario & Carlos
5:00 p.m.	Fr. Mario/Deacon Paul
8:00 a.m.	Fr. Carlos
10:00 a.m.	Fr. Mario/Deacon Paul

FROM A SERMON BY ST. ANSELM, BISHOP (for Dec. 8)

Blessed Lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night—everything is subject to the power or use of man—rejoice that through you they are in some sense restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace. All creatures were dead, as it were, useless for men or for the praise of God, who made them. The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendor by men who believe in God. The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruit of Mary's womb. Through the fullness of the grace that was given you, dead things rejoice in their freedom, and those in heaven are glad to be made new. Through the Son who was the glorious fruit of your virgin womb, just souls who died before his life-giving death rejoice as they are freed from captivity, and the angels are glad at the restoration of their shattered domain.

Lady, full and overflowing with grace, all creation receives new life from your abundance. Virgin, blessed above all creatures, through your blessing all creation is bless, not only creation from its Creator, but the Creator himself has been blessed by creation. To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, whom he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and thus he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary. God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as the Savior of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed. Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself."

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Lori

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

THANK YOU!

Please only print 100 copies until further notice. Thank you